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Greetings from GCIA! I hope all of you, our members and industry friends, have had a productive year so far. It's been a busy year for the GCIA team with many accomplishments along the way. While we still have some inspection work ahead, I look forward to this time of year as most of the heavy lifting is behind us.

As we move into fall, I'd like to briefly recap the work our inspectors and administrative staff have completed thus far. On annual seed crops, small grain and forage acres were almost identical to last year at 4,063 and 1,174 respectively. These crops were inspected in spring and early summer.

As for peanuts, certified acres were up from last year at over 148,371 acres. While field inspections are key, our administrative staff has quite a job reviewing applications for field inspection for accuracy and completeness with a short turnaround time. Our inspectors, both full-time and part-time, hustled to get all the seed peanuts looked at during August and early September. Thanks to all the peanut buying point employees for their preparation, which certainly makes things smoother for all of us. Currently, our inspectors are making compliance visits to peanut buying points.

The last of the annual crops to be inspected this year are soybeans. We expect soybean acres to hold steady this year at around 4,400 acres with the majority being contract field inspections for Corteva AgriScience.

In addition to the annual seed crops, turfgrass acres were up again this year to 10,268 acres. We're well into the third and final round of turfgrass inspections as this work is typically completed by the end of October or early November. The fall inspection period is an important one as off-types can be easier to identify when we begin to have some cooler nights. Thanks to our sod growers for their cooperation in working with our inspectors to identify and control off-types and contaminants. Whether going on a home lawn, golf course or athletic field, certified sod is the highest quality sod available.

In addition to our traditional certification programs, GCIA's Agricultural Audits arm, which includes the organic certification and food safety programs, have also had a productive year. Food safety audits conducted are already well ahead of last year's total – 162 completed this year as compared to 138 completed for all of 2024.

The organic certification program has also experienced growth in 2025. Currently, we have 101 organic clients. Thus far, organic auditors have completed 81 inspections in 2025. Having completed a National Organic Program compliance back in the summer, the organic team is poised for growth moving into 2026.

In closing, thanks to our staff for their hard work and dedication in 2025. I appreciate all you do for our members and clients. Also, thank you to our board of directors for their guidance, support and encouragement throughout the year. I am honored to work with such a great group of people.

Billy Skaggs Executive Director Georgia Crop Improvement Association

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# 2025-2026 UPCOMING AG EVENTS



UAC Sporting Clays Tournament-October 30<sup>th</sup> Click here for more info: <u>UAC Events</u>



College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

76<sup>th</sup> Southeastern Turfgrass Conference-November 5<sup>th</sup>

Click here for more info: SE Turf Conference



UAC Georgia Sod Producer Field Day-November 6 Click here for more info: UAC Events



Georgia Agribusiness Council
Harvest CelebrationNovember 7

Click here for more info: GAC Events



#### GCIA Turfgrass Authorized Representative Training

November 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 10am and will be conducted by ZOOM. \*Contact Becki Hicks for more info and to register call 706-542-2351 or email becki.hicks@georgiacrop.com.



Southeast Regional
Fruit & Vegetable ConferenceJanuary 8-10, 2026
Click here for more info: <u>SE Regional Events</u>



49<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Peanut Farm Show-January 16, 2026 Click here for more info: <u>GA Peanut Farm Show</u>



UAC Landscape Pro University & Expo-January 28, 2026 Click here for more info: UAC Events

### GCIA 2025 Peanut Inspector Training Briefing

On July 30th, the Georgia Crop Improvement Association held its annual peanut inspection training in Tifton, GA. We met up with Dr. Bill Branch and Dr. Nino Brown as they showed us the different phenotypic traits in peanut varieties that we would be inspecting statewide.

Georgia-O6G and TifNV-HG accounted for the majority of the acres this year, followed by 20 additional peanut varieties in certification. There are several new and upcoming varieties that we would be inspecting, so they informed us of the diverse growth habits associated with each one. These varieties have high yield potential with proven disease resistance as well.

Dr. Branch had each variety planted next to one another so we could see the differentiation of plant growth. We were able to pull peanut plants out of the ground and examine the peanut shell and seed characteristics. Some varieties peanut have distinct differences in physical shape, size, and density. The varieties also have certain maturity days, and we were educated on which varieties are earlier maturing and which have longer maturity periods.

We were also accompanied by staff from Georgia Seed Development, who handle Foundation peanut seed in Plains, GA. GCIA invited multiple people from out of state who were able to attend. These attendees associated with other Crop Associations Improvement universities. We appreciate the time and effort put into this training by the UGA peanut team.



#### 2025 Peanut Acres Applied for

D25 realist Acres Applies 10	
Variety	Acreage
Georgia-06G	88,548
TifNV-HG	20,927
52N	9,524
Georgia-12Y	8,500
Georgia-18RU	6,544
Georgia-16HO	3,924
Arnie	3,537
Georgia-21GR	2,304
Georgia-20VHO	1,389
T61	884
IPG 913	722
Georgia-22MPR	700
TifNV-High O/L	428
Georgia-14N	147
725	130
Georgia-23RKN	58
Georgia-09B	45
Georgia-24NHO	30
Georgia-11J	18
TifJUMBO	9
USDA-ARS-TIF TB	1.74
Georgia-SP/RKN	1.5
TOTAL	148,371.00
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## **GCIA Annual Peanut Buying Point Training**



The annual buying point training was held on August 26<sup>th</sup> in Albany, GA. Mr. Billy Skaggs spoke to buying point representatives on the importance of their role in seed certification by ensuring they had a quality management system in place. A key part to this system is to have an SOP for cleaning equipment (semi-trailers, wagons, dump pits, etc.). This will guarantee purity, identity, and quality for each variety. Guest speakers included Dr. Nino Brown, UGA Assistant Professor of Peanut Breeding, Dr. Jack Davis, JLA Labs, and Mr. Tyron Spearman, National Peanut Buying Points Association. We would like to thank the Georgia Federal State Inspection Service for allowing us to use their facility to host this meeting.







The GCIA Annual Membership Meeting is set for March 5, 2026 at The University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education (1197 S Lumpkin St, Athens, GA 30602). Formal details to be provided soon!

### UGA researchers use turf science to protect athletes, preserve fields By: Joy Benedict, CBS News



On the football field, teamwork drives the game, but behind the scenes, another team is working to keep players safe.

At the University of Georgia's Turfgrass Research and Education Center, scientists are studying how grass affects athlete performance and injuries.

Dr. Gerald Henry, a turfgrass management specialist, and his team replicate the wear and tear of football games using specialized cleat machines to test how different types of grass hold up under pressure.

"So we can replicate the wear and tear traffic of a football game very quickly and then see how that affects the grasses that were growing," Henry said.

Researchers place athletes on the turf to monitor how their bodies interact with the grass, using small sensors that track movement and impact.

"These little devices talk to one another, and we can take the data from those devices and actually tell whether their body is interacting with the grass in a more beneficial way or a detrimental way," he explained.

A lab at the University of Georgia's Tifton campus shows some of the grass hybrids researchers are studying.

Testing different grass types ensures that playing surfaces remain safe and functional.

"You don't want open areas because that can create some problems with footing," Henry said.

At UGA's Tifton campus, researchers have developed hybrid grasses like Tifway and Tifgreen, now used on football fields, golf courses, and lawns worldwide. The turf is also the choice of five NFL teams this season.

Meanwhile, on the Griffin campus, scientists are testing turf technology, including underground sensors and drones, to monitor soil moisture and optimize watering. Since the 1950s, UGA researchers have pioneered the global success of these turfgrasses, and today, a multidisciplinary team supports an industry that contributes more than \$1 billion annually to Georgia's economy.

For athletes and groundskeepers alike, the science of turf is a win-win, protecting players while keeping Georgia's fields in top condition.

Source: CBS NEWS



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### **Officers**

Reed Rogers, Golden Peanut & Tree Nuts
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Bill Bullard, Birdsong Peanuts
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Drew Watkins, Sunbelt Turf Farms
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Ken Morrow, The Turfgrass Group, Inc.

Brian Ogletree, Ogletree Seed, Inc.

Eddie Ott, NG Turf

Albert Rogers, Premium Peanut

Blake Shepard, Mixon Seed Service

### **Staff**

Billy Skaggs, Executive Director

Mark Collier, Field & Conditioning Plant Inspector

Terry Crane, Food Safety Program Manager

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